

Who are we?

“I have been meaning to write you for a year and a half, and finally I am doing it. I just want to thank you for being there, for being a light in a very dark world. For taking people in and showing them Jesus, and for helping God to save my life, just by being open to His guidance. I want you to be encouraged that you really are touching people’s lives. You may not always see results while guests are staying with you, but you are sowing seeds in very needy hearts.”

- A traveler from Australia who accepted Christ after staying at the hostel.

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry is a Christian ministry to travelers. In the city centre of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we run two Christian youth hostels: The Shelter City and The Shelter Jordan.




We have welcomed travelers since 1971.

Each year, almost 30,000 backpackers and tourists are spending one or more nights in our hostels. In addition to providing them with good accommodation, our desire is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with these young travelers.

The ministry of The Shelter started in 1971, and was initiated by the association Tot Heil des Volks (“For the salvation of the people”), a registered charity in Amsterdam. Since 1855 this non-denominational organization has been doing missionary work in Amsterdam and other parts of the Netherlands.

WHAT IS OUR VISION?

We want to show the love of Christ to the guests in our hostels, both through practical service and hospitality as well as through verbal communication of the Gospel message. In addition, we aim to equip and prepare our hostel team members for ministry and life. Most members of our international team are between 18 and 30 years of age and participate in our ministry for six to twelve months.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink top and a pink scarf, smiling warmly. She is positioned in the lower-left corner of the page. The background behind her is a wooden structure, possibly a hostel room or hallway.

“I’m impressed by the kindness and hospitality that you all showed. Thank you very, very much.”

What do we do? [1]

Providing hospitality to international travelers

Youth tourism is a large and growing market. A fifth of all tourism world wide is by people aged 15 -25. About 70%, or 133 million(!), of these young people travel to or in Europe. These and many others look for accommodation in hostels or low budget hotels.

The Shelter hostels are among the major eight hostels of Amsterdam. From the many tourists that yearly visit the capital of the Netherlands, nearly 30,000 choose to stay with us. These travelers are usually between 16 and 40 years of age and come from approximately 130 different countries.

Running two hostels, provides us with a great way to be witnesses of Christ in a practical sense. We have the opportunity to provide hospitality, quality accommodation, and good service and to share joy and kindness, all in the name of Christ. The amazing thing is that we don’t have to go searching for people to witness to them, they are coming to us.

In the past 35 years, we have often seen that our practical service and kindness can help prepare a way for the Gospel. Many guests have had to change the negative views they had about Christians as they felt understood and cared for in the Shelter. In many ways, our hospitality and service is a bridge towards conversations about the bigger questions of life.

As well as being on a physical journey, many travelers are also on a spiritual one. So, you could say that the mission field is coming to us, in the hostels.

What do we do? [2]

Sharing Christ with young people

Part of traveling is that you discover new things. Most of our guests, therefore, are open to new ideas and impressions. Will they only be affected by what the city has to offer or will they leave Amsterdam being influenced by our Christian witness as well?



A Bible study with a number of guests.

“We were sitting in the café and Oba was overflowing with excitement over something that happened that day. As I listened, he told me that today was the day he realized Jesus Christ was God’s one and only Son. By realizing this, he believed that everything Jesus Christ said and claimed to be is truth. This was what he had been searching for and he finally found it. The joy that flowed from Oba’s eyes, and the enthusiasm he spoke with as his hands shook is a sight I will never forget.”

The friendly atmosphere of the hostels definitely provides opportunities to share the Gospel. Personal conversations and relationships are key factors, simply because this is what hostel life is all about, and it happens to be among the most effective ways of evangelism. The clear Christian identity of the Shelter hostels and the enthusiastic staff team serve as invitations for many to ask spiritual questions.

In addition to conversations with individual guests, we use many other ways to communicate the Gospel of Christ. Each traveler receives a brochure with



the Gospel message and is invited to our daily Bible study. We also provide special programs with free meals, music, drama, film, and/or testimony.

Regularly we get to rejoice because a guest has given his or her life to Christ. For most of the 30,000 guests a year, however, we don't know how their lives have changed during their stay in the hostel. Most of them only stay for two or three days before they continue their travels. We trust that we assisted them somehow in their spiritual walk and helped them to take the next step in their spiritual journey or growth. Some plant, some water, and God makes it grow (1Cor. 3:6).

Each of the two hostels employs a (part-time) evangelism coordinator to help our team members set up programs and share Christ.

Quotes from travelers who stayed with us:

"I encourage you to continue this work. You were some of the persons that God used to touch and change my life!!!"

"Your staff had a great impact on me, even though I only stayed for two days."

"You all encouraged me in my faith and lifted my spirits in a down time and made me feel welcome. You have a real and vibrant ministry and I thank you."



'This is by far the best hostel we have stayed in!!!'



What do we do? [3]

Ministry Training Program

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry has its own training centre. Here we equip our team members for Christian service and ministry.

Only some of the people who join our team have been to Bible school; most come without theological or ministry training. The Ministry Training Program provides them with the necessary preparation for service in the Shelter ministry and beyond.

The training is closely connected with the service and ministry in the hostels. It combines classroom teaching with practical application. Two half days a week are set apart for teaching and training, during the rest of the week the lessons can be put into practice in the youth hostel ministry.

A training coordinator is employed by the youth hostel ministry. The various courses are taught by teachers with ministry experience (coming from Youth with a Mission, L'Abri, and other organizations) and theological degrees.

The training of our team members is of utmost importance because they are key players in the way we do ministry. Our international workers are the ones that serve the guests, make contacts, build relationships, have conversations, get questions, lead Bible studies, prepare evangelistic programs, etc. The training helps them to do all this in a more effective and efficient way.

The Ministry Training Program (MTP) aims to equip our team members for the hostel ministry and to deepen their faith. The MTP includes courses in: How to read the Bible, Spiritual disciplines, Prayer, Discipleship, Apologetics, World Religions, Modern culture and religion, Teambuilding, Preparing and leading an Outreach or Bible discussion, and many more.

What do we do? [4]



Gerrit Jan and Krista van der Ziel are leading the community.

Christian Community

All our team members live together at the “Willemsstraat” building in the centre of Amsterdam. This accommodation provides small dorm rooms, community room, kitchen, library, internet, and other facilities for our workers.

When you have 36 young men and women from various cultural, national and church backgrounds in one team, you’ll find many blessings, but it also requires effort to make it work.

The care for the team is provided by a married couple that lives in the same building.

They welcome new team members and create a home-like atmosphere.

They also pay attention to the spiritual and personal life of each worker and can serve as mentors.

In addition, they organize the practical side of the living community (buying supplies, scheduling the chores, providing bikes for the workers, maintaining of the building, etc.)

The team community is important to create unity, build healthy mutual relationships, and provide support, rest and spiritual refreshment. It also teaches our workers to grow relationships with other Christians and to value each others gifts and personalities.



Sharing a meal together.

Our Ministry in Numbers

Each year:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 29,475 | guests in our hostels, from |
| 130 | different nationalities |
| 67,200 | nights spent in the hostels |
| 20,000 | tracts given out |
| 550 | Bible studies given |
| 120 | evangelistic programs |
| 730 | devotional times with the cleaners |
| 15,000 | conversations about the Gospel (estimated) |
| 20 - 30 | people accepting Christ |
| 200 - 250 | people assisted in their journey towards Christ (estimated) |
| 15 | courses taught in the Ministry Training Program |
| 180 | class hours of teaching |
| 135 | volunteer workers (36 FTE*), from |
| 23 | different nationalities |
| 12 | employed workers in both hostels (9.5 FTE), plus: |
| 5 | employed workers specifically for the ministry (2.2 FTE) |

* FTE = Full Time Equivalent. Not all workers are full time employed and most volunteer workers stay for less than one year.

“I consider my work at the Shelter to be a stop on my journey, my journey through life. It seems like everyday God is teaching me something new, I have learned about living in a community of believers, and have seen the benefits. I have learned to be around people of other faiths and religions, and to see them as people and not just as “non Christians.” I have learned that Jesus is the difference, and that truly following Christ makes us different. And most of all, God has really taught me how to love unconditionally. To love, as Christ would, without conditions, what a difficult, mysterious, and beautiful thing that is.” - Joel Strautin , team member.



Finance

When it comes to finance and bookkeeping, the Shelter hostels and the Youth Hostel Ministry are two separate entities. The Shelter Jordan hostel and The Shelter City hostel generate their own income: the guests pay for accommodation, food and drinks, etc. The money that comes in serves to pay for the costs of running a hostel. Our aim is to break even, we are not profit oriented. The Youth Hostel Ministry, on the other hand, does not generate its own income and completely depends on gifts. In other words, the Christian ministry that takes place in the context of the hostels is not paid for by the hostels, but is dependent on financial support from donors to be able to continue.

There is, of course, an overlap between running a hostel and doing Christian ministry in the hostel. For example, the kindness and hospitality that we provide serves both sides. Nevertheless, there are elements that are clearly ministry oriented, and would not exist if it wasn't for the Youth Hostel Ministry.

Dependent on gifts

The following list serves as an indication of what is part of the Youth Hostel Ministry and, therefore, is dependent on gifts:

- The giving out of tracts and Bibles
- offering free meals on certain occasions
- putting on evangelistic events using drama, music, testimony and film
- the use of multi media equipment to communicate the Gospel
- two paid evangelism coordinators (part-time)
- teaching materials for the ministry training program
- class rooms
- hiring teachers
- one paid



training coordinator • the accommodation, meals, etc. for our team members • upkeep and maintenance of the Willemstraat building • two paid coordinators for the living community.

Budget Youth Hostel Ministry 2006

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Employees and team members | 160,663 |
| Organization | 17,250 |
| Housing | 97,095 |
| Deprecation | 18,472 |
| Training School and Evangelism | 38,749 |
| Administration, ICT, PR | 42,142 |
| Total | 374,371 |

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Hostel services | 231,557 |
| Donations needed | 142,814 |
| Total | 374,371 |

Donations needed 142,814



'It is a strongly evangelical, Bible centered ministry, and it's having a visible effect.'
World Magazine, Nov. 28, 1998.



Colofon

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For information about the Shelter hostels or to make a reservation, please contact either of our hostels:

The Shelter City, Christian youth hostel
Barndesteeg 21
1012 BV Amsterdam
The Netherlands
t +31 20 6253230
e city@shelter.nl
i www.shelter.nl

The Shelter Jordan, Christian youth hostel
Bloemstraat 179
1016 LA Amsterdam
The Netherlands
t +31 20 6244717
e Jordan@shelter.nl
i www.shelter.nl

This ministry on Internet:
www.youthhostelministry.shelter.nl

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry is part of 'Tot Heil des Volks'.

How Can You Support Us?

We hope that after reading this information, you would like to support the Youth Hostel Ministry. Your financial support is necessary to continue.

Gifts and donations can be made in the following ways:

Bank transfer

Postbank Amsterdam:
Account nr. 104944 of Tot Heil des Volks Amsterdam
IBAN code: NL38 PSTB 0000 104944
BIC code: PSTBNL21
Description: Gift Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry

Check

Please send your check (payable to "Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry") to:
The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry
Oudezijds Voorburgwal 241
1012 EZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Credit card

You can use the form on the next page of see <http://www.youthhostelministry.shelter.nl> for more details.

Other ways to support us

Prayer. Please remember this ministry, our team, and the travelers when you pray.

Joining. Please consider joining our team for a period of 1 to 12 months, or encourage and enable others (between 18 and 30 years of age) to do so.

Thank you very much for being involved with our ministry!

FORM to use for DONATION and/or PAYMENTS

by CREDITCARD

N.B. Only *MasterCard*, *VISA* and *American Express*!

Name:

Address:

Zip:

Place:

Country:

Telephone:

Fax:

CREDIT CARDS DETAILS

Name Card holder (if different):

Type of Card: MasterCard/Visa/American Express (please delete as appropriate)

Number:

Security Code: (3-digital code on the back of the card:

Expiration Date: (month)/(year)

TRANSACTION DETAILS

Amount + Currency:

Specification: Donation to Scharlaken Koord Ministry

Frequency: One time/Monthly/Quarterly/Yearly (please delete as appropriate)

Remarks:

Date: Signature:

PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM COMPLETELY
RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO THE ADDRESS MENTIONED BELOW
do not send by e-mail (because of security reasons)

In case of payment for a Scarlet Cord product:
Send in your separate Order Form too!

Please note the following:

You will notice on your credit card statement the following name: Tot Heil des Volks, which is the association that will charge your account on our behalf. Tot Heil des Volks is the administrative office for Scarlet Cord.

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